



African Otological Society

November 25, 2023 @ 11am (US Eastern Standard Time)

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Notes

Thank you for attending the first meeting of the African Otological Society (AFOS). It was wonderful to see so many faces and hear about the fantastic work that everyone is doing. It was even better to see the enthusiasm for the newly minted AFOS and how it can build a community of providers and enhance otology and audiology care in Africa.

1. Going forward, we will plan on monthly meetings via zoom. The next meeting will be scheduled for Saturday January 13, 2024 at 11am USA EST (the same time it was held on 11/25/2023; an eventual recurring zoom link will be posted on the website that you can go to, to connect). Please note that the previous email and the website listed January 6 (tomorrow) as the next meeting. My apologies for any confusion. We will be holding the next meeting one week from tomorrow on Saturday January 13, 2024 at 11am EST (US). A formal zoom invite will be sent to you soon with a calendar invite so that the appropriate time zone for you is listed.
2. If you have not already done so, please either go to <https://forms.gle/b3JcHnHRcSSgHDBd7>; or to the AFOS website (www.afotos.org) and register on the link. Please sign up prior to the next meeting so that we can include you in all emails and zoom invites. We have created an official AFOS email site as well; Africaotosociety@gmail.com, please send any links to talks, educational files and your photograph (if desired) to that gmail and we will build them into the website for all to use. There is also a link to upload on the AFOS site along with a place to upload a photograph of yourself.
3. At the recent meeting (11/25/2023) the format was simply to have everyone on the call introduce themselves. It was wonderful to have so many members (at least 52) and represented (11) countries on the call. Thank you all for sharing the nature of your work and your interest in the AFOS.
4. We discussed that the AFOS is about Africa by Africa. That said, we discussed the need to elect/appoint leadership from Africa for the AFOS. That leadership can take many forms and

include, but not be limited to, regional leaders, committees, and sub-committees etc. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

5. We discussed the need for a mission statement for the AFOS.
6. We discussed that the centerpiece of the society will be the AFOS website, and we discussed the need to further develop the website to include downloadable educational items and links to talks and presentations as well as a message board for real-time communication.

At the next meeting, we plan to:

1. Craft a unified mission statement for the AFOS
2. Decide on leadership structure for AFOS and if possible, put specific African members in those positions.
3. Discuss other needs or ideal components for the website (www.afotos.org)
4. Discuss plans and needs for the next meeting in February 2024